A Growing Newspaper In A Growing Town

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

Historic Appomattox Gave Unity and Peace to America

A LIVE WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE VIRGINIA

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Father Darkleaf

By c. h. r.

I have often wondered if Appomattox's fabulous minstrel, Joel Sweeney, did not cross paths with the author of the immortal song, "Dixie." For that I would have to check with my friend, Col. George Collins, an authority on Sweeney. I received a Christmas card from Col. Collins, mailed from Georgia. We had been disappointed that he and his wife did not revisit Appomattox this fall, after so many pleasant months here earlier in his study of the Sweeney saga. Howbeit I have at hand a copy of "The Southern Magazine" for January 1895. I acquired it at an antique shop in Richmond, Va., for a price. On page 411 thereof, there begins an article by John L. Gans on: The Author of Dixie. And "the author of Dixie" was Daniel Decatur Emmett, God rest his patriotic soul. He is one of the "greats" of America, but by and large is unsung, unhonored and unmemorialized in an adequate way His birthday was the 29th of October. Gans said that 1895 was his 79th birthday, so he must have been born around 1814. Gee—that was the year Andrew Jackson won his famous victory at New Orleans. Emmett spent his last years in dire poverty, for it is the sad story of America that we overlook some of our great people. It has happened over and over again. Anyway, Thomas Jefferson was the President when Zerick Emmett patented a tract of land in Ohio. His son, Dan, ended up with just one acre of that grant. He was a printer at the age of 21. Eventually he turned up in New York. Thence to England, Scotland and Ireland. And then back to his printer's case in New York. He and his friends at Mrs. Brooks Boarding House on Catherine Street, organized a music club. Violins and banjos were the principal instruments .. and so I think this is where our own Joel Sweeney might have come in, since he invented the modern banjo just about this period. In addition to Emmett, there were Frank Brower, Duck Pelham and Billy Whitlock. From soot out of the kitchen chimney they fashioned a blackface act. These boys made a hit and called themselves, of all names: The Virginia Minstrels. They gave their first performance at the Chatham Theatre in New York on February 17, 1843.

But by then Joel Sweeney was an established star in the same field. The Appomattox minstrel even went to England in 1842 with a similar act—and I wonder if Emmett and his group were not in fact, Sweeney imitators. But the important fact seems that darkface minstrels made a tremendous hit in this country in the 1840's. Groups toured the nation. Emmett went on tour with Jerry Bryant's Minstrels. The standard minstrel called for a grand finale featuring a "walk around" with the full cast on stage. Emmett had written a standard walk around by the name of "Dan Tucker." But this was wearing thin and a new walk around was asked for. One Saturday night, Bryant told Emmett to write a new walk around by next Monday's show. A rainy Sunday was spent by Dan Emmett writing the words and music of "Dixie's Land." It was the spring of 1859. The company was playing in Mechanics Hall in New York. On Monday night, the song was first presented The song was a hit. The company continued its tour and the song "Dixie" was the hit tune of the hour everywhere. It was taken up by the Confederates in the war of 1861-65. Joel Sweeney died just before the war began, but his brothers sang for the Southern Army. Somehow, I feel confident that the paths of Joel Sweeney and Dan Emmett crossed. Emmett later joined Christy's Minstrels and other groups. He died short of money, but long on the thing that counts, true achievement.

Pamplin 4-H Club

The Pamplin 4-H Club will meet at the school next Friday, Jan. 14, at 9:00 A. M.

Vera 4-H Club

The Vera 4-H Club will meet at the school Monday, Jan. 10, at 9:00 A. M.

Annual March of Dimes Appeal Is Made

Local Farmer On Group to Aid Milk Sale

A state-wide campaign to increase the per capita consumption of milk and other dairy products will be initiated by the newly-formed Virginia Milk Producers' Federation, according to Mr. W. E. Inge, of Appomattox, member of the Federation's Board of Directors and advertising committee. Mr. E. T. Willis, of Culpeper, is president.

According to Mr. Inge, the campaign will be an all-embracing one and include advertising, public relations, merchandising and educational activities directed at both children and parents. A budget of $100,000 has been allocated for the activity during the coming year. Federation members will be assessed according to production.

Prior to launching the campaign the Federation will undertake a state-wide survey to determine the present consumption of fluid milk and other dairy products and to ascertain what is known about milk's relationship to physical and mental health. A recent similar survey made in Richmond showed consumption of milk to be lower there than the national average.

Upon completion of the survey attempts will be made by means of the Federation's advertising and public relations program to educate the public in areas where the survey shows lack of understanding about milk's value to the diet.

The Virginia Milk Producers' Federation, a non-profit organization, is a group of dairy farmers from all parts of the state, who have banded together, with headquarters in Blacksburg. A primary activity of the Federation will be the implementation of the newly-announced program to increase the consumption of dairy products.

Mr. Charles Moyer, of Chula, is First Vice-President; Mr. Thomas Stark, of Amelia, Second Vice-President; Mr. R. G. Connelly, of Blacksburg, Secretary, and Mr. J. G. Sebel, of Roanoke, Treasurer.

7,000 Fish Ponds in Va.

There are now approximately 7,000 farm fish ponds in the state according to the Soil Conservation Service. Virtually all of these have been built during and since the war years, the movement really getting underway when the farmers were handicapped by war conditions in normal farming operations. Ponds are continuing to increase in numbers with great rapidity.

While these impoundments are created on privately-owned lands and are fostered by the Soil Conservationists, the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, which is restricted in its operations to waters open to public fishing, has a very definite interest in them. Their private ponds are taking a great deal of fishing pressure from the public waters and at the same time are bringing on a new generation of interested anglers.

The farm ponds are making substantial contributions to expansion of habitat for waterfowl, and they are undoubtedly doing much toward improvement of the watersheds and the underground water supplies of the state. There is a substantial water area in 7,000 of these ponds.

Legion Aux. To Meet Monday

Unit 104, American Legion Auxiliary will meet Monday night, January 10, at 8:00 o'clock in the American Legion building. Mrs. Frank Carr, chairman of the National Security and American Defense Committee will present a program. Mrs. Shearer Robertson, Mrs. Charlie Carter and Mrs. Edwin Carter will be hostesses. All members are urged to be present. All nurses, mothers, daughters of American Leans are especially invited to join the Auxiliary during January.

Late Rains Bring Appomattox Rainfall Total to 35.9 Inches

Appomattox had a total of 35.90 inches of rainfall during the year 1954. The year was featured by an extended drought and severe water shortage in most of the area, and the annual rainfall was below the long-time average. But for sizeable rainfall in the final quarter of the year, the annual total might possibly have set an all-time low.

According to figures from W. S. Taylor, local weather reporter for the U. S. Weather Bureau, 1954's rainfall by months, in inches, was as follows:

January	2.31
February	3.42
March	3.33
April	1.96
May	3.95
June	2.51
July	2.29
August	2.75
September	1.55
October	4.54
November	4.80
December	2.49
Total	35.90

The measurements were made at the reporting station at the home of Mr. Taylor here. Therefore, the figures would not be identical for every portion of the county, since some scattered showers helped spots and missed others.

Blue Hornets To Play Here Friday Night

The Blue Hornets of Appomattox High School, both boys and girls, will play Madison Heights in a Group Two, District 4, league basketball game here in the new gymnasium on Friday night at 7:30 o'clock. The girls game will start at 7:30, followed by the boys game at 8:30.

So far this season, both girls and boys have not done so well. The girls have won one and lost three, and the boys have the same record. However, two of the boys losses were by only two points. Randolph-Henry defeated A. H. S. boys 30 to 28 and the alumni scored a 62-60 win in a double overtime game.

On Tuesday, Jan. 11, William Campbell will come here for another league game of District 4. This will include both boys and girls games.

Coach Gordon Bragg has had the boys practicing over the holidays, and looks for improvement in play for the remainder of the schedule.

Classes For Adult Farmers

Evening agricultural classes for adult farmers will be held in the Appomattox Vocational Agriculture Building, Appomattox, beginning on Wednesday night, January 12, 1955. The first class will meet at 7:30 P. M.and consider:1, Class organization and selection of topics for 1955 series of meetings, and 2, Discussion topic—The Agricultural Outlook for 1955.

Tentative plans have been made to hold a series of 15 meetings to be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 o'clock. However, no class will be held on Wednesday, January 19, due to another group using the agriculture building that night. Some of the topics tentatively planned for discussion at these meetings are: Appomattox A. C. P. Program for 1955; Planning a Pasture Program, Fertilizer Recommendations, Controlling Tobacco Insects and Diseases, Growing Alfalfa, and Maintaining Sanitary Conditions on Dairy Farms. Members attending the classes will be given the opportunity to choose many of their topics of discussion if they so desire.

PAMPLIN H. S. NEWS

The Pamplin High School classes have gotten back into full swing for study on examinations after the Christmas holidays. Mr. Irving announced on January 4, during chapel program, the dates that examinations would be given for the first semester.

On January 4, the Pamplin High School S. C. A. met to make one of the objectives more complete, concerning regular chapel programs every two weeks.

School Cafeteria Menu

Monday, Jan. 10.- Baked beans with crisp bacon, peach salad, hot rolls, butter, milk.

Tuesday, Jan. 11.- Beef pot pie cole slaw, prunes, whole wheat bread, butter, milk.

Wednesday, Jan. 12.- Weinie in roll, pinto beans, canned tomatoes, milk.

Thursday, Jan. 13.- Italian spaghetti, tossed vegetable salad, cookie and milk.

Friday, Jan. 14.- Salmon croquets, corn and butter beans, pickled beets, milk.

ABBITT IN WASHINGTON

Representative Watkins M. Abbitt returned to Washington this week to attend the sessions of the new Congress, which convened on Wednesday.

Oakville Club Meeting

The Oakville 4-H Club will meet at the school Monday, Jan. 10, at 10:40 A. M.

Woman's Club Met Monday

Community Resources for Emotional Adjustment was the subject of Mrs. William MacConnell, psychologist in the Lynchburg Guidance Center, when she addressed a meeting of the Woman's Club of Appomattox Monday afternoon in the high school cafeteria. This program was sponsored by the Welfare Department, and Mrs. Mildred O'Brien Alvis, chairman of this department introduced Mrs. MacConnell.

Mrs. MacConnell cited community resources through which such adjustments are aided, naming the home, church, school, physicians and civic organizations.

"Emotional adjustment is likened to harmony and maladjustment to disharmony," she declared.

She stated that national statistics in 1953 revealed that one person in ten needs professional assistance with emotional illness during their lifetime; one in twenty will require hospitalization, and one family in five requires professional services with emotional illness of some degree. "Emotional illness is like cancer—the malignancy can be helped by early treatment," said the speaker.

Mrs. Charles F. P. Crawley, club president, introduced Mrs. Charles F. Cross Jr., of Lynchburg, who spoke briefly on the benefits of the Dale Carnegie Course.

Hostesses for the afternoon were Mrs. Frank F. Carr, Mrs. Robert J. Franklin, Mrs. Ivey Holland, Mrs. J. Hannon Wilson and Miss Hilda R. Cabinniss.

WOODMEN NEWS

The Supreme Forest Woodmen Circle Grove 73 held its Christmas Party in the home of Mrs. Edna Blackwell December 14, 1954.

The members exchanged gifts. Everyone enjoyed playing games. Most delicious refreshments were served by the hostesses, Mrs. Helen Lewis and Mrs. Pearl Mitchell.

Life's Sunny Side

All too often the gloomy and tragic news rates a banner headline. To correct this situation Changing Times, the Kiplinger Magazine has assembled some statistics that reflect the sunny side of life in the United States.

There are 162,922,000 Americans who are not members of the Communist Party.

Some 37,011,460 couples will stay more or less happily married during the year.

On the average, there are 63,868,000 people working to bring home the bacon.

Last year, the scheduled airlines safely carried passengers 18,902,134,841 miles in the U. S. and possessions; railroads safely carried passengers 31,674,831,200 miles.

Some 162,717,890 persons will not die of cancer in 1955.

And 162,380,580 persons will be safe from fatal heart attacks.

About 629,000,000 acres of forest land will not be set on fire by careless smokers and picnic-goers this year.

The Internal Revenue Service will find that 43,846,154 income tax returns are filed correctly in 1955.

Finally, there are 83 countries in the world that have not discovered the secret of the hydrogen bomb.

Postal Receipts Here for 1954 Set Record

Total postal receipts at the Appomattox Post Office were the largest last year in the history of the office, According to Postmaster E. LeRoy Smith, total 1954 receipts were $46,072.89. Mr. Smith stated that this figure was the largest since he had been postmaster, which has been the peak period in the history of the office.

The total figure for the year 1953 was $37,183.40.

The local office became a first class post office for the years 1951 and 1952, when total receipts passed the $40,000 mark. However, the office dropped back to second class as of last July 1, because receipts for 1953 had declined below the $40,000 total usually required. As of the beginning of the next fiscal year, July 1, 1955, Appomattox should return to the rank of a first class post office.

Cannery Had Year Total of 47,000 Cans

Over forty-seven thousand cans of fruits, vegetables, and meats processed in the Appomattox School Community Cannery from July 1 through December 31, made the cannery session a successful one despite the drought. During this six month session 565 people used the cannery facilities under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. John Tweedy, in canning over 12,000 pints of food, and over 35,000 quarts.

In addition to canning this large amount of food 2,974 pounds of sausage was prepared and 6,092 pounds of lard was rendered. The cannery was opened last July 1, for the 1954 season under the general supervision of Mr. H. B. Pack, vocational agriculture instructor, and Miss Laura Mottley, home economics teacher at Appomattox High School. Mr. and Mrs. Tweedy gave daily instruction in the cannery concerning preparing the food, proper time to cook under steam pressure, and the use of the cannery facilities. "Doc" Tibbs helped to keep things steaming by keeping the boiler fires going properly. Mr. R. N. Ashworth assisted Mr. Pack in the general supervision of the cannery.

SUCCESSFUL ANTLERLESS DEER SEASONS

C. F. Phelps, chief of the Game Division of the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, reports that the recent deer season, especially the special antlerless seasons, west of the Blue Ridge have been quite successful, despite several days of rain and fog.

Total adult buck kill was about 5,400, a six per cent increase over last year, with adverse weather holding the figure below the expected total. The special antlerless day in eight counties brought hunters out in force, but they concentrated on the Glades Area, Shenandoah, Bath and Augusta Counties. Only Shenandoah, however, had the expected harvest, with a total of 715 antlered and 645 antlerless deer. The antlerless total was 2,000, making a combined total of 7,400 deer killed west of the Blue Ridge.

The annual March of Dimes drive got under way this week in Appomattox, as an organization of workers was set up for this effort for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Ever since an epidemic of polio in this county several years ago, the March of Dimes has been a major enterprise in the field of charitable giving.

Walter ("Boots") LeGrand and Fred C. Smith are serving this year as co-chairmen for the March of Dimes. Other chairmen are:

Mrs. Bob Smith, chairman for Pamplin.

Judge Joel W. Flood, chairman for business places and for special gifts.

Dr. A. M. Keesee, chairman for white schools.

Mrs. Mozella J. Price, chairman for Negro schools and churches.

Mr. Claude W. Smith, chairman for white churches.

Mrs. T. M. Richardson, chairman for "Mother's March."

Frank D. Wooldridge, County Treasurer for the March of Dimes drive.

The traditional containers for contributions will be distributed this week.

The National Foundation has had to send a considerable sum of money into Appomattox County in recent years to supplement the local share of the March of Dimes funds in order to care for polio victims. The March of Dimes is considered one of the top appeals of the year, and the drive is conducted during the month of January.

MARCH OF DIMES LAUNCHED IN VIRGINIA

The eighteenth annual March of Dimes Campaign was launched in Virginia Saturday by 107 chapters of The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and almost 5,000 volunteer campaign workers.

Throughout the state the first events to get under way were the mailing of envelopes which contained return envelopes for direct contributions, and the distribution of coin collectors and school cards. The school card is a simple slotted card which will hold 6 dimes. School children are encouraged to earn money to fill the cards by doing odd jobs and saving from their allowances during January.

Fund raising events yet to come during the month in Virginia included many and many varied methods and stunts. In one city they plan to lock the mayor in jail until a specified amount in March of Dimes bail is raised.

The National program calls for a minimum of 64 million dollars if all phases of its program are to be continued. County campaign directors throughout the state expressed confidence that Virginians would give their share of the needed amount as they have for the past 17 years.

Appomattox 4-H Clubs

Appomattox 4-H Clubs will meet at A. H. S. next Thursday, Jan. 13, from 9:00 to 11:50 A. M.

Demonstration Club Schedule

Home Demonstration Club schedule of meetings for next week, with "What's New in Nutrition" as the general topic, follows:

Monday, Jan. 10.- The Bethany Home Demonstration Club will meet at 2:00 P. M. with Mrs. Ruth Jennings. Mrs. Mott Harvey and Mrs. Ryland Staples will give the demonstration.

Tuesday, Jan. 11.- Clover Hill Home Demonstration Club will meet at 2:00 P. M. at the home of Mrs. Verna Conner, with Mrs. Frances Conner as co-hostess. The demonstration will be given by Mrs. Conner and Mrs. Jacob Lewis.

Thursday, Jan. 13.- The Stonewall Home Demonstration Club will meet at 2:00 P .M. at the Community Center, with Mrs. C. M. Caldwell and Mrs. Lester Carson hostesses. Miss Edna Adcock and Mrs. C. D. Carson will give the demonstration.

Friday, Jan. 14.- Country Lane Home Demonstration Club will meet at 6:30 P. M. at the Home Demonstration Office Kitchen. The food demonstration by Mrs. Dean Conner will be served for supper. All members are urged to be present. Note change in date and time of the meeting.